Volume 27 Issue 7

July 2004

The Oscillator

The Club...wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club *Est: 1978*

OTVARC SPOTLIGHT:

- Fifth Wednesday Contest - June 30
- Club Meeting - July 14
- Travelers' Skamokawa - July 14 - 18
- Lunch Bunch - July 24
- Board Meeting - July 28
- Club Meeting - August 11
- Board Meeting - August 25
- Lunch Bunch - August 28
- Club Meeting - September 8
- Board Meeting - September 22
- Lunch Bunch - September 25
- Fifth Wednesday Contest - Sept 29

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KK7TN Paragraphs Don Stettler KK7TN

¶ Several have mentioned interest in my comments about packet radio in my previous paragraphs. For me packet radio is a very interesting mode because it combines radio with the computer, both of which I enjoy. In addition, before I managed to upgrade it was the only mode that allowed me to communicate with hams around the world.
I will have to admit I don't do this very often anymore but early on in my experience with packet radio I would respond to hams from around the world that posted messages on the BBS asking for a reply message. Generally these ham would promise a personal reply and sometimes they would express an interest in exchanging QSL cards. In the several years that I was really into this I exchanged messages with hams in England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, and Japan, as well with hams in other states.
One contact I made in this manner has led to friendship that I value highly. My friend Guenter lives in Bamberg, Germany that is located in northern Bavaria. He was and still is way ahead of me in packet radio. Over the years he helped me explore new aspects of the mode. One was using gateways to transmit messages via satellite. As our friendship has developed we have moved away from packet radio to email because it is quicker and allows attachments. It has been very nice to learn from him about the country where my roots are. Following is a picture of old-time radio in Germany that Guenter sent to me

See Page 2

THE PROGRAM – Wednesday, July 14th

We meet Wednesday, July 14th at 7:00 pm at Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings. BPL has been getting a lot of attention in ham radio media. Come and hear Glenn Pelikan K7GWP explain what we face.

Why not come early and enjoy dinner at the Elks' Cafeteria line?

When you attend club meetings you are "connected."

HAMFests

July 16 - 18, 2004
Pacific NW DX Convention
http://www.wwdxc.org
Joe Gregory, W7QN
509 North 71st Street
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-784-1089
Email: w7qn@msn.com

July 24, 2004
Coos County Radio Club
http://www.coosradioclub.org
Paul Andersen, K7AIA
PO Box 3009
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: 541-888-2050
Email: k7aia@arrl.net

July 30 - August 1, 2004
3905 Century Club Convention
http://www.alpinesoft.com/eyeball
Dean Davis, KL7OR
3596 Karen Avenue South
Salem, OR 97302
Phone: 503-540-3270

Paragraphs, from page 1

of old-time radio in Germany that Guenter sent to me that I think you may enjoy seeing.

Happy Fourth of July to all! And by the way, I found out from my friend Guenter that they have the Fourth of July in Germany, hi hi. Several times he mentioned that he celebrated with the U.S. troops at the Werner Barracks in Bamberg.

73

Don

LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday
July 24, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.
A & W
14845 SW Murray Schols Dr

Questions or comments
Julie Landers KD7GQW
503.646.1546

Is there a location you'd like to use for a Lunch Bunch?

Pass along the information.

VE Testing Services, Carl WS7L

OTVARC sponsored the VE session at Sea-Pac again. We tested 16 applicants on June 19th and issued three new Technician licenses, one Tech+, two upgrades to General Class and two upgrades to Extra Class. Two applicants received credit for a test but did not upgrade.

My thanks to VEs: Gordon W6NW (President of Sunnyvale VEC), Bob WF7Q, Paul KC7PMU, Anne KA7TON, and Jim N7HKO.

This year we shared the facility at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church with the Sea-Pac "Bored Spouses" Hospitality Suite. It worked very well. I even got a donut from them. (I tried to donate a buck when they weren't looking but they caught me.)

My thanks also go to the folks who were on site earlier in the week -- Will N7THL, Julie KD7GQW, and Everett W6ABM – for helping me figure out the logistics for the sharing process, and to the church staff for their assistance to our cause.

ONCE UPON A TIME, Al W7SIC

The last article on this subject left off as we were getting ready to move our meeting place to Elmer's at the Beaverton Mall. Having outgrown Sambos at 185th, we had to make a move. Our new hosts gave us the same problems we had at Sambos. How many are going to have hamburgers and how many "other choice?" Oh well!! We did okay, and the extra space was great.

It was about this time that Warren N7BIJ found us a really neat Field Day site. It was the Maiken farm, a few miles out of Vernonia and on Rock Creek. We used the site for several years for Field Day and a couple of Saturday picnics. The site had a cook house and a "dual hole restroom." Greg Milnes decided to try his hand at fishing one afternoon and came back with trout (none of which showed up in pictures developed later). Ray Hough, now SK, somehow begged the use of a beer truck for one of our operating positions. Only trouble was, it was empty. Among the memorable moments at Field Day was the collapsed crankdown tower. I had just walked up and noticed one of the guy stakes was wobbling and instead of running over and grabbing the guyline, I grabbed the camera. Too bad THAT picture didn't come out! Another real laugher was when Ralph Karls tried to call his wife on the 147.32 machine. He hooked up his HT to a coax coming down the side of the tower and gave it a try., Nothing worked and it wasn't until another member came along and told him it would never get out on a 20 meter beam that we realized what happened.

It was not long after we moved to Elmers that we again were faced with space problems. Would you believe that all we had to do was look across the parking lot to North's Chuck Wagon? The management was agreeable and we had no more hassle with menu! You got what you saw. We referred to our new home as North's Upchuck. It was really not bad, and while there we undertook some new and exciting events. One of these was bunny hunting. We tried it a couple of times at our previous picnics and there was enough interest to get it hopping...so to speak. That was a lot of fun. I hope the club might do it again.

[Second in a series. More to follow in later issues]

Travelers', Marvel KA7TZT

The July campout takes the Travelers' to one of their favorite locations, Skamokawa State Park (Washington State Park). You'll have a great time with other regulars, and meet some new "travelers" too. This is one of the rare places where you can greet ocean going ships from your RV!

Sites will be available beginning Wednesday, July 14th (but you'll miss the July Club Meetint) and continue through Sunday, July 18th.

The Saturday Potluck will be at 5:30 pm with hamburgers/hotdogs provided. If you are unable to camp, come anyway and visit for the day on Saturday and enjoy the Potluck.. We can't promise you a ship...but its likely.

Marvel KA7TZT is your wagonmistress for July. She needs a head count before Wednesday, July 14th to purchase for the BBQ Potluck.

Call her at 503.292.3261.

The Travelers' is just one of the special interest groups associated with OTVARC. They thrive by leadership of interested members and the encouragement of your elected board.

If you haven't visited with The Travelers', you've missed out on some of the best fun you'll find through the club.

Even without an RV or tent, join in the fun.

FIELD DAY SUCCESS, JD Fort, K7JDF

The laptops are being downloaded, the camping gear stowed and sorted, oh – and a load of clothes is in the washer...Field Day 2004 at Vernonia's Anderson Park has come and gone.

While I have no firm numbers for you on contest scoring, I can give you a quick thumbnail report:

- Two of our newest club members, that don't even have HF privileges, rack up an impressive number of overnight contacts, including The Virgin Islands.
- Experiments with the vertical dipole antenna design were impressive.
- The GOTA station ran simultaneously with the two General Class stations for several hours giving us four scoring stations on the air for the first time in many years.
- Another of our newest members ran digital HF, giving us a multiplier, and working more than 40 states.
- The UHF/VHF station collected the most multipliers ever due to favorable band conditions on 6 meters.

There will be more specifics and call sign credits as I get further in to the debrief.

As usual, many thanks to the experienced club members and their selfless "elmering," and to the Travelers' and Betty Mickley for giving us a 'home away-from-home' and keeping the coffee flowing through the night.

More details next month.

Thanks to all.

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11705 SW Pacific Hwy (99W)
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800-854-6046

Happy *July* Birthday

2 Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH
Betty Mickley N7REX
8 Shannon Miller N7APE
12 Ross Fillinger W7LXR
13 Chuck Samuel K7NWM
14 John Anderson KA7BRZ
Dee Lynch K7JRB
15 Robert Fitzpatrick KC7PL
18 Sharon Smith KB7LWX
21 Ronald O'Connor KD7VIK
25 Marc Chamberlin WA7PXW
31 Bob Kuhn KC7YN

Do you know of a business that would benefit from advertising in THE OSCILLATOR?
If so, let the editor know.
Rates and packages available on request.

Summit To Surf, Jeff KF6CXD

American Diabetes Association is holding the annual Summit to Surf bicycle ride (100 Miles) on July 31, 2004. I am looking for thirty hams to work the event... and two hams willing to operate as net control.

Summit To Surf runs from Welches to Hood River and is an all day event. It starts at 6:30 am and runs until 5:00 pm. We feed a dinner at the end of the event in Hood River at the finish line.

I need six Sag vehicle drivers. You will be given a vehicle to use (donated by Subaru) but you must have good driving record and mobile ham equipment that can move into the Subaru. No HT's for Sag drivers. For others, mobiles are preferred but HT's will work in most locations. Your HT should be 440 capable.

Please email me with any questions. If you have worked the event in years past and have a favorite position please include that in your response.

If you are interested please email at KF6CXD@arrl.net

Respectfully,
Jeff Mathia

Battery Care and Charging, Frank K3UHF

I found Anderson 50 amp plugs to be very handy. I put three on every battery. Two so they can be paralleled to other batteries and the other to go to a device or distributive buss with 20 amp Anderson plugs for radios. I keep the amplifiers on 50 amp plugs. I run # 8 wiring from the normal battery to a 50 amp plug in the back of the rig which I connect to the battery bank.

My alternator in the Jeep only has # 10 wire, I think its a 70 amp unit. A greater dc load can be carried than ac because ac travels on the surface of the wires while dc uses the free electrons in the wire. In the house I have a charger connected to the same battery bank of three 100+ ah batteries ($35 on sale at GI Joes) . The trickle charger is at 13.5 volts and two amps. When I transmit 400 watts PEP on 2 meters (50 - 60 amps) it goes down to 13.1 volts and barely moves the needle at two amps. The charger is keeping the voltage high while the batteries are providing the current.

When I set the charger on high it draws six amps on the charger at 13.4 volts.

The rule of thumb for keeping a constant charge on a battery is no more than one amp of current per battery should be applied over a time of greater than 24 hours. You must buy a trickle charger for a single battery and be careful not to spend all day on it. However if you buy two or three batteries you can use a cheap $20 charger with a two amp low setting to keep them leveled.

I have used this as a power supply for two years now with the same two batteries and one I added when I bought bigger amplifiers. It would be wise to use the battery buckets in the house and car to avoid spillage. Check water once a month, I add some about every 6 months. We have preserved batteries for up to 20 years at the mill with trickle charging.

CLUB MEETING
JULY 14TH

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Repeaters: 146.96 MHz
440.350 MHz (127.3)
Editor: Everett W6ABM
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

CLUB INFORMATION

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs

⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication

⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings

⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

Membership dues are $16/year; Family member(s) of full members at same address $21/household; Full Time students and members of two years or more at age 70 or older (Life Members) are dues free. See Club Treasurer about purchase of life membership prior to age 70. If you wish to join during the year, dues are pro-rated.

Membership applications may be found on the Club Website or on request from the Treasurer.

The OSCILLATOR is published Monthly for members. The deadline for the August issue is Tuesday, July 27th.

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